

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 OMB-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 DRC-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 /176 W  
----- 107749

R 201910Z FEB 74  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4167  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0936

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MCAP, AFIN  
SUBJECT: MBFR CONFERENCE COST-SHARING ISSUE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: USNATO 0592

SUMMARY: AT MEETINGS OF THE SPC FEBRUARY 8 AND FEBRUARY 18,  
ITALY HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT HELSINKI FORMULA UNFAIR AS REGARDS  
INTERNAL SHARING AMONG ALLIANCE MEMBERS FOR MBFR CONFERENCE COSTS  
AND THAT ALLIES SHOULD ADDRESS THIS AS A "POLITICAL" ISSUE IN SPC.  
SOME SUPPORT IS EMERGING FOR ITALIAN POSITION, ALTHOUGH UK, FRG,  
US AND TURKEY STILL FAVOR HOLDING ITALY TO HELSINKI FORMULA.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AT FEBRUARY 8 MEETING ITALIAN REP (SPINELLI) READ FROM LENGTHY  
STATEMENT (ORIGINAL FRENCH TEXT PREVIOUSLY POUCHED) PRESENTING  
ITALIAN POSITION THAT HELSINKI FORMULA SHOULD BE APPLIED ONLY  
AS BASIS FOR EAST/WEST APPORTIONMENT OF MBFR CONFERENCE COSTS,  
AS IT WOULD NOT BE EQUITABLE TO APPLY IT INTERNALLY WITHIN NATO  
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GIVEN ITALY'S ROLE AS AN INDIRECT PARTICIPANT (PARA 1, REFTEL).  
HELSINKI FORMULA, HE POINTED OUT, IF STRICTLY APPLIED WOULD  
GIVE ITALY SAME QUOTA AS U.S. AND USSR, AND COULD EVEN WORSEN  
ITALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS MBFR. ITALIAN REP ALSO INSISTED A

POLITICAL PRINCIPLE IS AT QUESTION, AND NOTED ITALY HAD STATED ITS RESERVATIONS ON THIS MATTER SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS GOT UNDERWAY AND BEFORE BELGIUM BEGAN ITS CONTACTS WITH AUSTRIA AND POLAND ON CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AT FEBRUARY 18 MEETING, DENMARK, BELGIUM, NORWAY AND THE NETHERLANDS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE ITALIAN VIEW, AND COULD ACCEPT THE MBFR AHG FORMULA AS THE BASIS FOR THE ALLIES' SHARING OF THE CONFERENCE COSTS. UK, FRG, U.S. AND TURKISH REPS INDICATED, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE CHAIR, THAT THEY COULD NOT DEPART FROM THEIR POSITION THAT ITALY SHOULD ABIDE BY ITS SEPTEMBER 18 ACCEPTANCE OF HELSINKI FORMULA. UK REP SAID FLATLY THAT LONDON'S POSITION WAS VERY FIRM AND HE COULD HOLD OUT NO HOPE THAT IT WOULD CHANGE. THE SPC WILL RETURN TO THIS MATTER AT ITS MEETING FEBRUARY 25.

3. COMMENT: UK DELOFF INFORMED US AFTER MEETING THAT BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE IS BASED ONLY PARTLY ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ITALY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BACK OFF FROM AN ALLIED CONSENSUS. BEYOND THIS, THE BRITISH FEEL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO ITALIAN "POOR-MOUTHING" FOR YEARS ABOUT ROME'S INABILITY TO MAKE MULTILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS BECAUSE OF RECURRING ECONOMIC CRISES. NOW, IT WAS UK WHICH HAD A FINANCIAL CRISIS.

4. MISSION CONTINUES TO FAVOR HOLDING ITALY TO HELSINKI FORMULA. WE INTEND TO SUPPORT JOINT FRG-TURKEY-UK POSITION, BUT WILL LEAVE IT FOR UK TO TAKE THE LEAD TO ARGUE THIS OUT WITH ITALY, GIVEN THE DEPTH OF LONDON'S DETERMINATION TO MAKE THIS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, MISSION WILL IN NO EVENT PERMIT U.S. SHARE TO EXCEED COST SHARING FORMULA FOR NATO COMMON FACILITIES IN VIENNA.  
END COMMENT.  
RUMSFELD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 11 JUN 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATO00936  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS, 12-31-80  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740267/abbrytjf.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** USNATO 0592  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <26-Jul-2001 by maustmc, RDFRD>; RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR CONFERENCE COST-SHARING ISSUE  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO, MCAP, AFIN  
**To:** STATE INFO VIENNA  
ROME  
LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005